

June 27, 1991

FACT SHEET: GRANITE CITY HEAVY METAL EXPOSURE STUDY

Who is responsible for this project?

A grant to do this study was awarded to the Illinois Department of Public Health by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, an agency of the U.S. Public Health Service located in Atlanta, Georgia. Other organizations involved with this work include St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, the Institute for Evaluating Health Risk, Midwest Research Institute, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Who will be included as part of this study?

The areas of interest include those neighborhoods within and surrounding the areas proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for remedial action in the Taracorp National Priority List record of decision. Areas of Granite City, Madison, and Venice will be considered for inclusion in this work.

In general, what is being planned for these communities this summer regarding the exposure study?

The study is to be divided into two distinct phases that involve "field work." The first phase consists of meeting community members and completing a census of those individuals living near the affected areas of Granite City, Madison, Venice, and Eagle Park Acres. Census takers will be in those proposed areas targeted for remedial action and surrounding neighborhoods during the month of July. The census includes questions on age, gender, race, and household characteristics, which is information necessary to select potential participants and to match study and comparison populations. All the information collected will be kept confidential.

The second phase of the study will occur in mid to late August. This phase of the study will consist of a questionnaire interview and biomedical (blood and urine) sampling of the study and comparison populations. Environmental samples will also be collected from selected homes as well.

How will study participants be selected?

Basically, all children between the ages of six months and six years in the area of concern will be studied. Additionally, a random sample of older children and adults will be asked to participate. Pregnant women will also be studied as part of this project. A comparison or control group with similar characteristics will also be selected and asked to participate.

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If I am not chosen as a study participant, can my blood still be tested for lead?

Yes, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will be able to perform some limited additional blood lead sampling. If you or a family member are not selected to participate in the study, but wish to have your blood lead determined, you may contact IDPH representatives to make arrangements for testing.

When will the sample results be available?

When IDPH receives the results for the study participants and others, they will notify those individuals as soon as possible by letter and in some cases, by telephone. Recommendations and follow-up with these individuals will be done as necessary.

When will the study be completed?

The final part of the study consists of a statistical analysis of the data in order to draw some conclusions as to the relationship between an individual's exposure to heavy metals in the environment, workplace, or home and the concentration of heavy metals found in their body. The final report will be mailed to all participants and interested individuals. Should the results of this study indicate the need for additional or expanded health studies, IDPH will propose additional work in these communities. If you would like to be included on the mailing list tonight, be sure to put your name and mailing address on the sign-up sheet.

For additional information contact:

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